

BIDDENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

APPROVED Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 13 January 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Biddenden

Present: Cllr C Friend (Chair) Cllr A Lidgett
Cllr D Boulding Cllr T Lupton
Cllr P Cameron Cllr S Parks
Cllr E Cansdale Cllr J Tydeman
Cllr P Harris

Mrs A Swannick (Clerk)

No parishioners attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr E Stevenson-Rouse due to personal commitments

2. Parishioners' questions

None.

3. Any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

4. Any changes to Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

None.

This is the document previously known as the Register of Members' Interests. As these are now known as DPIs and are shown as such on the ABC website it seemed sensible to be consistent.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2014

There being no comments or amendments to the minutes circulated, the minutes were deemed to be a true and proper record. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr E Cansdale. **Agreed** by those councillors who attended the meeting.

6. Matters for information not on the agenda

None.

7. Report by Cllr Bell, ABC

The amount of recycling being rejected is down and DEFRA figures show the Ashford Borough Council figures to be the most improved recycling in the country. ABC is now in the

top 10% and a survey shows that 9 out of 10 people are enjoying it.

Cllr Bell was asked if the bins were being checked as a person in an orange jacket has been seen in the village looking in bins. Cllr Bell stated that this was not the case.

Cllr Bell reported that the issue of the speed limit between the village and Woolpack Corner had not been back to the Joint Transportation Committee.

8. Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030 - Site submissions for Biddenden

Nothing further to report. Cllr Bell has been sent a copy of the Council's letter to Simon Cole at ABC as requested at the last meeting. Cllr Bell stated at the last meeting that he will be opposing both sites.

Discussion took place that with the building of Chilmington Green, there was no immediate need for further development in Biddenden for the next five years other than the housing already planned, although it was accepted that development could benefit the village in terms of bringing more people into the village which in turn would improve business, the school etc. However, the matter needed to be considered and handled carefully for the benefit of the village.

9. Post Office

The prospective tenant had a telephone interview with the PO on 8 January which was successful. A PO project manager has been assigned to Biddenden and will meet with Mr Knight to discuss outreach provision on 22 January. He would hope to take over the running of the PO late January/early February.

Rental to the current tenant is now being charged on a monthly basis given the new tenant is likely to be in place end January/beginning of February/

The Council's solicitors, Thomson, Snell and Passmore, have sent a letter of care with terms of business which has been signed and returned to them.

The lease for the new tenant has been sent to him for his solicitor to look at.

10. Parking in The Weavers

A parishioner has raised concerns with Cllr Parks about the access regarding emergency vehicles and parking.

The Clerk had raised these concerns with ABC after the last meeting with ABC in relation to the planning application. Information relating to a similar development is awaited from ABC.

This matter will be raised with Highways during the parish visit and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to ABC regarding these concerns.

11. Review of Risk Assessment

This is an annual review. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr S Parks.

Unanimous.

12. Review of Model Publication Scheme

This is an annual review. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by Cllr P Harris.

Unanimous.

13. Business Continuity Plan

This is an annual review. Proposed by: Cllr S Parks Seconded by: Cllr T Lupton. **Unanimous.**

14. Reports by Clerk, Group Chairmen and Parish Council Representatives

Car Park, Toilets and Post Office: The men's toilet had been deliberately blocked. A plumber had been called out. The CCTV was checked but nothing showed up. However, the PCSO has been informed.

Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow: Quotations for work detailed in the tree survey are awaited. The deadline is 16th January. A parishioner has pointed out a tree with a split branch not detailed in the survey and this is being checked with the contractor who carried out the survey. It was noted that two or three trees were in private gardens and that they were the responsibility of the homeowner. The Clerk will, therefore, write to the homeowners enclosing a copy of the survey recommendations regarding their trees.

The report relating to the Ash Trees in the Millennium Field had now been received and will be discussed by the Millennium Field and Jubilee Meadow Working Group.

The last claim made on the Single Payment Scheme has been received for 2014. The Clerk will now inform RPA that no further claims will be made, as advised by RPA.

Traffic, Pedestrians and Footpaths: A Parish Visit by Kent Highways is taking place on 26th January. Councillors are asked to come up with any suggestions/problems. This does not include potholes as they will be reported in the usual way.

The letter to Damian Green MP has been sent to Cllrs Bell and Hill to see if they are aware of anything happening regarding the last paragraph. A reply from Cllr Hill's office stated that KCC would not contradict the police recommendation and Cllr Bell confirmed that the issue had not been put before the Joint Transportation Committee. It was **agreed** to pursue the matter.

Village Handyman: As mentioned at the last meeting there is a possibility of sharing a village handyman. Biddenden would have to pay a share of the costs of employing this person.

However, after consideration, it was **agreed** that Biddenden should not join the scheme as it was dealing well by using local contractors where possible.

It was noted that the salt bag had not been delivered. The Clerk will chase this up.

The salt box in the churchyard is full of rubbish. This will be looked into.

Gordon Jones Playing Field and Play Area: The deadline for quotations for the mowing/grounds maintenance contract is 16th January.

Play Area: Copies of the questionnaire have been given to the school, playgroup and toddler group for circulation to parents. Some replies have already been received. A copy has also been put on the website and both noticeboards.

Police Liaison: In November 2014 the following crimes were reported:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Anti-social behavior | 1 |
| Criminal damage and arson | 1 |
| Vehicle crime | 2 |
| Violence and sexual offences | 1 |

Planning and Local Housing: An enforcement notice has been received relating to Dove Cottage and has gone to Appeal. Councillors felt that the parish council had been supportive but had done as much as they could. This should be communicated in writing to the parishioner concerned.

KALC: The next meeting of Ashford KALC is 21/1 at ABC.

Parish Forum: Nothing to report.

Recycling: A notice for applications will be issued with a deadline of the end of March. A Recycling working group meeting will be held in April. Approximately £2000 remains for distribution. It was **agreed** to contact the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council regarding the final payment of the recycling grant.

Village Hall Management Committee: Funds were being raised for a new stage. The parish council had made a contribution.

Health and Safety: Nothing to report

Allotments: Nothing to report.

John Mayne School: Report from the Head teacher:

- School roll is currently 135 and still rising with three more children set to join us (140 is our maximum)
- School budget has been extremely tight, but extra funding due to our rising roll is now starting to arrive

- The creation of a 'studio' space by internal re-configuration has provided a much needed additional open space within the school and is being well used. This was paid for completely by fund raising (PTA, John Mayne Trust, Turners shop, Parish Council).
- The school now has a gold standard 'Arts mark' awarded by the Arts Council- the highest level.
- Well supported Christmas concerts/ nativity play in the church
- 45% of children in Year 6 passed the Kent Test (11+) this year
- Parents helped to 'make-over' the front playground area for our Early Years children. This was done during the summer holidays at cost price.
- Y3-6 children will be performing at the Young Voices event at the O2 arena later in January
- Staffing is steady with just a small turnover each year.
- Popular Breakfast club and After school club continue to help support working parents (8am to 6pm)
- Biddenden playgroup has planning permission to erect a canopy to facilitate outdoor play and protect waiting parents from the elements.
- Wildlife area- we would like to improve this with further decking to enable children to pond-dip more easily.
- We are hoping to further develop the school grounds as a learning resource through PTA fund raising projects.

The Clerk was asked to clarify with the school whether the 45% passing the 11+ referred to just those in year 6 that who took the exam or the whole class.

15. Finance

a) Approval of cheques for payment: The schedule was presented. Proposed by: Cllr J Tydeman Seconded by: Cllr T Lupton. **Unanimous**

b) Note Accounts to 31 December 2014: Noted.

The increase in the amount of water used at the Chicken Farm was noted and the Clerk asked to speak to the tenant in the first instance.

16. Planning

| Case No | Parish | Location and Description | Decision |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---|----------------|
| 14/01542/AS | Biddenden | Brogues Gate, Cranbrook Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DY Erection of front extension | Support |
| 14/01567/AS | Biddenden | Shorts Wood House, Tenterden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DW Erection of rear first and second floor extension and rear orangery extension | Support |
| 14/01593/AS | Biddenden | Thousand Acres, High Halden Road, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8BF Single storey side extension with chimney | Support |

17. Correspondence

9/12 Letter from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England re Electoral Review of Kent County Council. *Councillors asked the Clerk to write stating that Biddenden should be placed in a division with Tenterden as it is the village focus.*

8/1/15 Email from KALC. Annual Planning Conference, 27 March, Lenham , All day event. *Details of the course to be circulated.*

18. Items for future consideration

- a) Salary review for Mrs S Tigg, cleaner
- b) Salary review for the Clerk

19. Date of Next Meeting: **Parish Council Meeting**, Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall